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Gohar Ali Khan is new chair of Imran's party

Jailed former PM of Pakistan Imran Khan's party on Saturday elected Barrister Gohar Ali Khan as its chairman, days before the election body's deadline for the party to hold organisational polls to retain 'bat' as its symbol. This is the first time since the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf was founded in 1996 by the cricketer-turned-politician that someone else has replaced the 71-year-old as its chairman. P12

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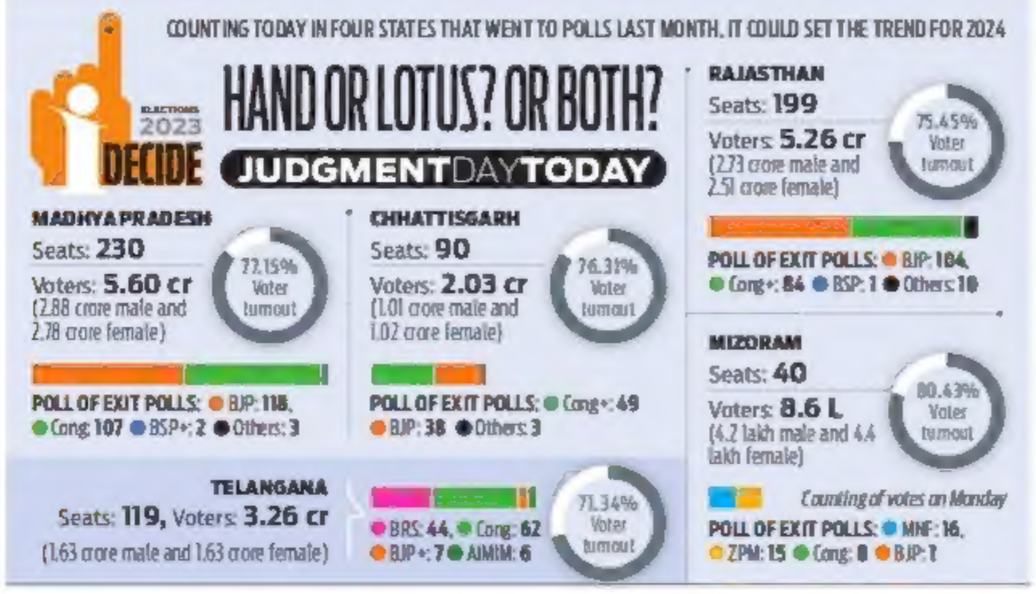
VAISHALI MAKES A MOVE

The chess ace, the sister of GM R Praggnanandhaa, is the third woman Grandmaster from India | P5


ELECTIONS 2023
I DECIDE
COUNTING TODAY IN FOUR STATES THAT WENT TO POLLS LAST MONTH. IT COULD SET THE TREND FOR 2024
HAND OR LOTUS? OR BOTH?
JUDGMENT DAY TODAY
MADHYA PRADESH
Seats: 230
Voters: 5.60 cr
(2.88 crore male and 2.78 crore female)
72.15% Voter turnout
POLL OF EXIT POLLS: BJP: 118, Cong: 107 BSP+: 2 Others: 3
CHHATTISGARH
Seats: 90
Voters: 2.03 cr
(1.01 crore male and 1.02 crore female)
76.31% Voter turnout
POLL OF EXIT POLLS: Cong+: 49 BJP: 38 Others: 3
RAJASTHAN
Seats: 199
Voters: 5.26 cr
(2.73 crore male and 2.51 crore female)
75.45% Voter turnout
POLL OF EXIT POLLS: BJP: 104, Cong+: 84 BSP: 1 Others: 10
MIZORAM
Seats: 40
Voters: 8.6 L
(4.2 lakh male and 4.4 lakh female)
80.43% Voter turnout
Counting of votes on Monday
POLL OF EXIT POLLS: MNF: 16, ZPM: 15 Cong: 8 BJP: 1
TELANGANA
Seats: 119, Voters: 3.26 cr
(1.63 crore male and 1.63 crore female)
BRS: 44, Cong: 62 BJP+: 7 AIMIM: 6
71.34% Voter turnout

Oppn demands House debate on Moitra, Manipur

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR AND PRONAB MONDAL
@ New Delhi/Kolkata

DEMANDS for a debate on the ethics panel's report recommending the expulsion of Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha, English nomenclatures for three bills that seek to replace criminal laws, and the Manipur situation were among the host of issues that figured in an all-party meeting on Saturday ahead of the Parliament session that begins on Monday.

The winter session is expected to be stormy as the ethics panel's report on the 'cash-for-query' charges against Moitra is slated to be tabled in Parliament on Monday. Trinamool Congress leaders Sudip Bandhopadhayaa and Derek O'Brien charged that the ethics committee's recommendations had already been leaked and demanded a debate on the issue. Other Opposition leaders, too, supported the demand for discussion on the report on Moitra.

Parallelly, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wrote to Speaker Om Birla seeking a fair investigation in the Moitra case. He said if the panel's recommendation to expel her is accepted, it would be an "extremely serious punishment and has wide ramifications".

"Accepting gifts and giving gifts, which may appear to be expensive depending on the yardstick applied, is a common social practice, and it would be extremely difficult to link or attribute accepting gifts to being a money trial for deriving favours," Chowdhury wrote.

At the all-party meeting, the Trinamool leaders also urged the government not rush through the three criminals bills in this session, saying they will have major ramifications.

Floor leaders of the Opposition demanded proper time allotment for raising the people-centric issues. The issue of pending MGNREGA payments for West Bengal was also raised besides unemployment and price rise.

The results of the assembly elections in five major states will also have their echo in Parliament. Congress MP Pramod Tiwari said the Opposition flagged the issues of Chinese ingress, price rise and 'misuse' of the Central law enforcement agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi assured members that the government is ready for discussions on all issues.

Detained Naval veterans may get consular access today

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

QATAR'S Ministry of Interior has agreed to grant eight naval veterans facing capital punishment in Doha another consular access, which is likely to be on Sunday, December 3.

The hearing on November 30 in Qatar's court of appeal was a long one. The court gave each of the naval veterans a chance to share their narrative.

"It was probably for the first time that the eight naval veterans got a chance to speak at length in court. The next hearing date has been fixed. In addition, Qatar's Ministry of Interior granted consular access, which will be within a day or two. This will be the fourth consular access till now," said a source.

The next hearing will be on December 7. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a bilateral meeting with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamas Al Thani on Saturday in Dubai on the sidelines of the COP28 initiative. Though there was no word on their dialogue, the meeting raised hopes on the repatriation of these veterans.

Qatar's Court of First Instance had on October 26 awarded death penalty to the eight naval veterans. After India's legal team filed its appeal against the verdict, the first hearing was held on November 23. The court accepted the appeal and the hearing was on November 30.

Min: Some health officials involved in foeticide scam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru/Bengaluru

HEALTH Minister **Dinesh Gundu Rao** on Saturday said some officials of the health department are involved in the female foeticide racket.

Addressing reporters in Mangaluru, he said he had visited Mandya and Mysuru and gathered information on female foeticide cases. The CID is now investigating the racket in Bengaluru and other districts. Two health officers involved in the racket have been suspended. "We are not sure whether Ayush officer Satish, who committed suicide, was involved in the racket," he added.

There were allegations that Satish, being an Ayush doctor at Periyapatna, was practising allopathy at Shivalli in Mandya district. "We are looking at ways to strengthen the law against female foeticide," he said.

Meanwhile, a 55-year-old doctor working with the health department in Mandya district reportedly committed suicide at his house at Nagapura in Mahalakshmipuram police limits in Bengaluru on Friday night. As Dr SR Nataraj was working in Mandya, police are probing if he had any role in the racket. P4

EXPRESS READ

Modi is Indira on steroids, says Guha

BENGALURU: Historian and author Ramachandra Guha, speaking on 'Personality Cults and Democratic Decline in India' at the Bangalore Litfest 2023 on Saturday, compared the personality cults of Indira Gandhi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said, "Narendra Modi is Indira Gandhi on steroids." P2

Depression to turn into storm over TN today

CHENNAI: The depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal will intensify into a cyclonic storm on December 3 resulting in heavy to very heavy rains in the northern coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and the interior parts of the state, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday. P5